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through the chord when studied in transverse sections. The posterior columns are projected above the plane of the lateral columns and exhibit distinct differences in the arrangement of nerve-fibres. In lacertilians and crocodilians the commissures are perforated longitudinally by a pair of columns of nerve-fibres. In ophidians the posterior nerve-roots are seen to be rudimentary or absent and when present to tend to arise from the *cervix cornu* of the posterior horn of gray matter. In chelonians the motor-cells are few in number; the anterior median fissure is of great width, the commissure of relatively great size, and the reticular fibres lying to the lateral aspect of the gray columns are unusually well developed.

FEBRUARY 27.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-seven persons present.

Walter Rogers Furness was elected a member.

On Dinodipsas and Causus.—Prof. COPE drew attention to a recent important discovery made by Prof. Peters, of Berlin, of the new genus of venomous snakes, *Dinodipsas*. He stated that he regarded the genus as pertaining to the *Causidæ*, a family he had proposed as a subfamily in his first paper read before the Academy in 1859. As the only genus heretofore known, *Causus*, is African, the statement of Peters that *Dinodipsas* is South American, adds an important fact to geographical zoölogy. Prof. Cope then corrected a statement made by Peters in his *Herpetology of the Reise nach Mozambique* (1882), that he (Prof. Cope) had referred *Causus* to the Vipers. In 1859 he had divided the venomous snakes with vertical and hinged maxillary bone, into the subdivisions of the rattlesnakes, the vipers, the *Atractospidines* and the *Causines*. He then designated the entire group *Viperidæ* after Bonaparte, and had not until later used *Duméril* and *Bibron's* term *Solenoglyphæ* for that division. But this did not justify Peters in stating that he had referred the genus *Causus* to the Vipers, and that he, Peters, was the author of the separate family to receive that genus and *Dinodipsas*, the “*Vipernattern*.”

He also corrected some other references to himself by Prof. Peters in the *Reise nach Mozambique*. In one of these, Peters had supposed him to refer to a combination of the genera *Breviceps* and *Chelydobatrachus* by Peters, when he had really separated them. Prof. Cope said that his language referred to their union in the *same family* by Peters, which he did not approve.

Prof. Peters also states that the peculiarities of the tongue in the genus *Hemisis*, described by Steindachner and Prof. Cope, are due to mutilation. Prof. Cope could not coincide with this view, and regards the structures described as normal.

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